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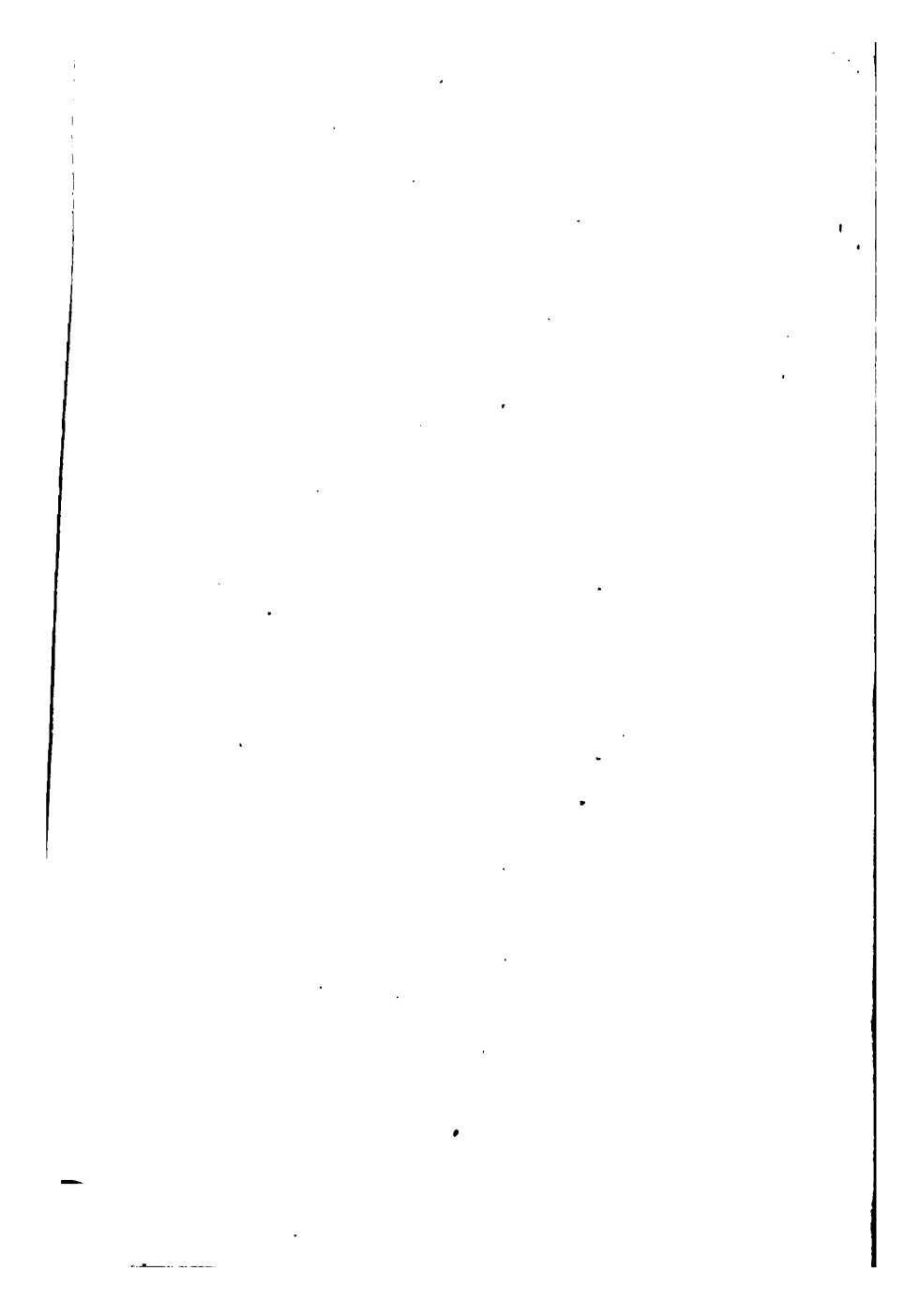
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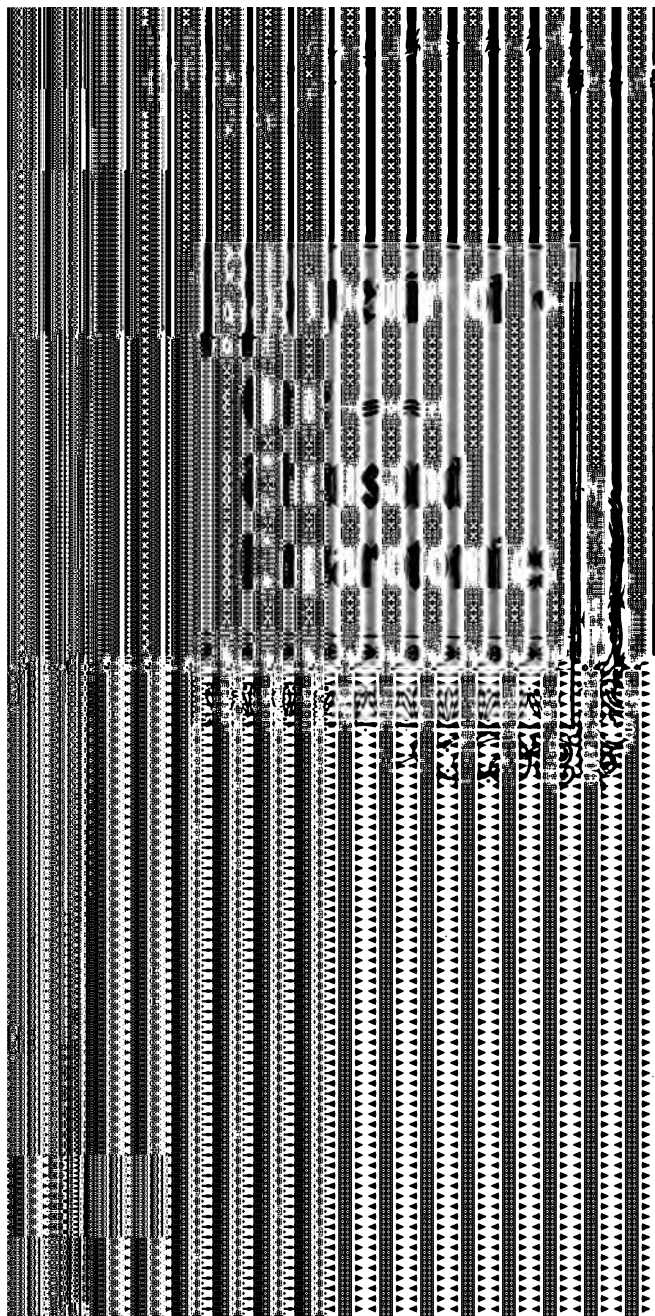
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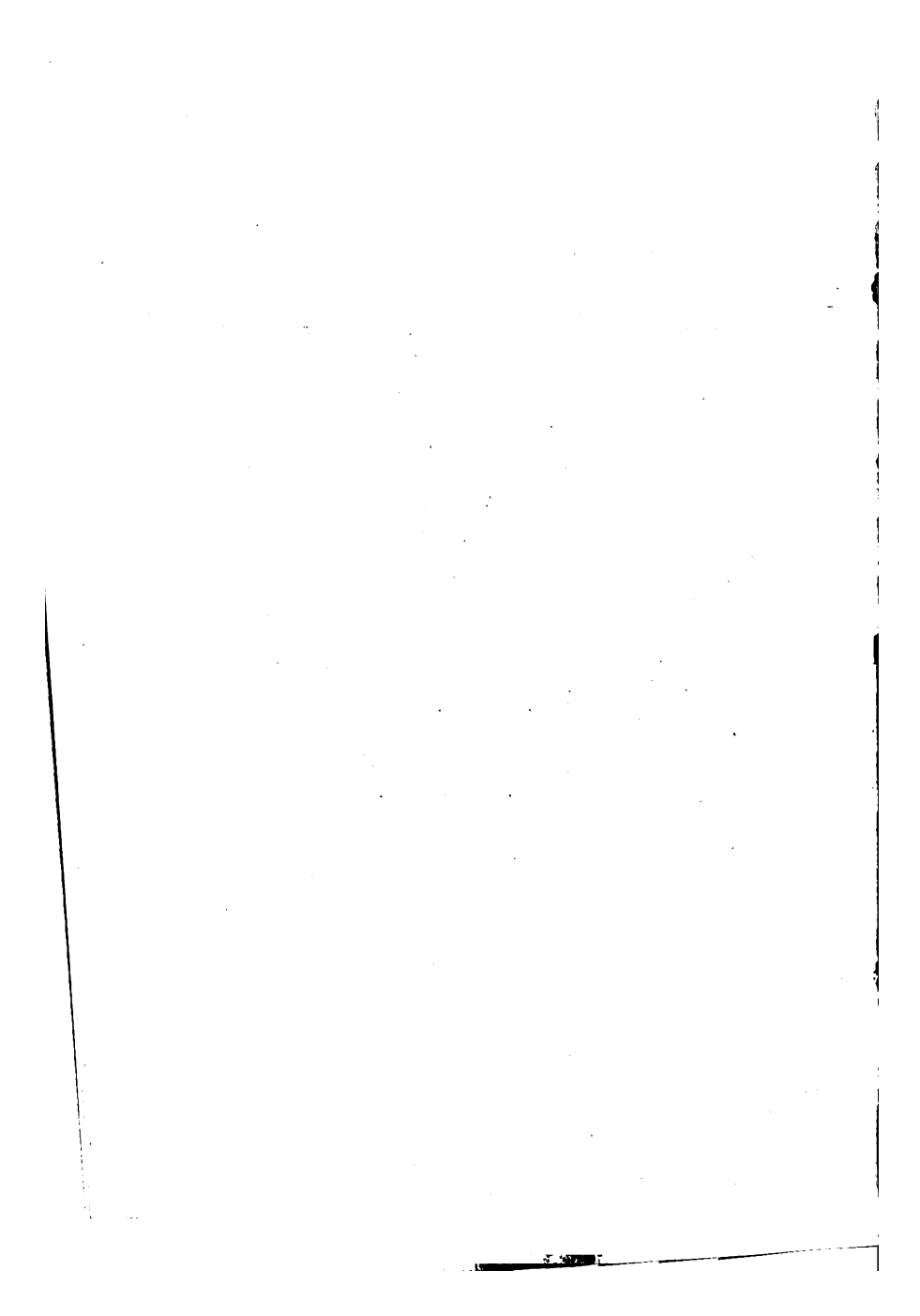
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SOUVENIR OF BANQUET

CELEBRATING THE
COMPLETION OF THE
FIRST SERIES OF

ONE THOUSAND
LAPAROTOMIES

H. F. BIGGAR

106666



THE HOLLENDEN
MAY 1, 1897
CLEVELAND

Men resemble the gods in nothing
so much as in doing good to their
fellow-creatures.

—CICERO.

INTRODUCTION.

The men, who in war fight and bleed side by side, greet each other even years afterwards with unbounded enthusiasm, for untold sacrifices and desperate struggles always inspire a deep mutual admiration. So we, who have toiled and battled against our terrible antagonist, Disease, clasped each others hands on the first of May, eighteen hundred and ninety-seven, with our hearts full of good-will—good-will which found but feeble expression through our lips.

The surgeons, physicians, assistants and nurses who assisted me in the completion of one thousand laparotomies *showed* their good wishes, not only by their presence around the festive board, but by their charming toasts. It is unnecessary to dwell upon the varied emotions of those assembled, for their responses all echoed the same feeling.

During the progress of the next thousand laparotomies, it may be encouraging to reflect upon what was said by those who assisted in the completion of the first.

EXPRESSIONS FROM SOME OF THE GUESTS BY REMARKS, AND LETTERS FROM THE ABSENT.



Remarks by O. D. Childs, M. D.

Doctor Biggar, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It gives me the greatest pleasure to be permitted to participate in an occasion so notable as this.

As I think of it, it seems to me to be, perhaps, the most notable of any we may ever enjoy outside of our own immediate lives.

I have known Doctor Biggar since he was a boy, and I have always looked upon him as the same boy. Perhaps that is the reason this gathering seems the more worthy to me, as it commemorates a round thousand of the most delicate of surgical blessings to humanity—which were comparatively unknown and were considered extremely hazardous operations at the time when Dr. Biggar and I were boys in college together.

Let me say here, there was but one Doctor Biggar in the class that graduated from the old Cleveland Homœopathic Medical College! It takes a man with more than ordinary force to be

a pioneer, and more especially is this true in a professional calling, where precedent is apt to be considered the boundary which limits our progress. Only a spirit of genius can overstep the doings and thoughts of the past and show to the world a success based on laws the past knew not of.

I want to thank Dr. Biggar for his independence of thought and the bold and manly manner in which he has done the work which has made an occasion of this kind possible.



Remarks by M. H. Hills, M. D.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is quite remarkable that a person engaged in as active life as Dr. Biggar has been able to remember an incident that occurred over twenty-five years ago, which he has just related to you in every detail including the foot-ball scene. It was my fortune to assist Dr. Biggar in one of the first, if not the very first, case of laparotomy which he performed, and I came to him with a case last summer which, of course, was one of the closing number of the one thousand, and which we are now called upon to celebrate. The patient, being poor, wanted to wait and come before the class as clinic, therefore I aspirated the sack, taking twelve quarts and in four weeks I performed the operation again, drawing eighteen quarts. After this she went to the country and I did not see

her for two weeks. When I did, she was of enormous size, being larger than before last tapping. I had advised immediate removal at my first operation and now insisted on it and brought her to Dr. Biggar.

The shock of operation was so great, owing to the ænemic condition of the patient, and extensive adhesions complicating the case, that I wired her friends to prepare them for what I thought would inevitably follow, for she was very low. But she did not die and she with her friends bless Dr. Biggar and the nurses of Huron Street Hospital every day.



Remarks by G. G. Biggar, M. D.

Mr. Toastmaster, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Little did I think when I assisted my brother in his first cases of laparotomy, of looking forward to counting up to one thousand cases.

The surgeons of that day I believe deserved more credit than now, especially for this reason, they did not have the instruments that we now have. Then when a case of abdominal surgery came up, you had to have the instruments made to order and then wait the pleasure of Mr. Fenton, who was the only man in the city who made instruments at that time. And perhaps disappoint the patient once or twice before the operation could be performed, on account of not having the necessary instruments.

I believe this to be a fit time to say that my brother, Dr. Biggar, has the credit of being the first surgeon west of the Alleghenies who successfully removed sixteen and a half inches from the large bowel.

I am pleased to offer my hearty congratulations for the first thousand, and may they continue.



Remarks by Wm. Murdock, M. D.

Our host of the evening, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is an old and true saying, "Poets are born and not made," and what is true of poets, is as true of doctors and surgeons. There must be, in the truly successful doctor, an inborn talent, which makes good work, and this is especially true of the surgeon. He must be physically and morally strong; he must have mechanical genius; must have a quick eye, and ready, and at the same time steady hand; he must have no doubt of his ability, for "He that doubteth is damned if he doubt." In other words, he must believe in himself. Not the bold conceit of ignorance but the "I can" and "I will" of genius. Added to these hard study and hard work and we have the man equipped for a fine surgeon. All these qualities our host of the evening possesses in an eminent degree. That he is a gentleman goes without saying; to know his cultured taste, one has but to glance at the simple elegance

of these tables, and the dainty menu he has given us.

Dr. Biggar, many of us can remember you when "Your locks were like the raven and your bonnie brown was bent." But now that "Your locks are like the snow" we will one and all unite in "Blessings on your frosty." In the words of the immortal "Rip," "May you live long and prosper."



Remarks by S. L. Thorpe, M. D.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Beautiful and enjoyable as is the entertainment you so generously tendered your professional friends and assistants, the real significance of the occasion most deeply impresses itself upon me—the passing of the millenary milestone in your career as an abdominal surgeon. We are all prone to admire the great deeds of history. A "Thermopylæ" or an "Alamo" stirs our blood with enthusiasm, but the grand achievements for humanity, in the peaceful walks of life, requiring great courage, skill and devotion, do not always receive the recognition they deserve. What a monument of these qualities which you possess in so large a degree, is the history of this thousand operations!

I most sincerely wish you a long life of still greater usefulness to humanity.

Remarks by Miss Anna C. Gladwin.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The thought of performing one thousand laparotomies brings to mind the great joy that was brought to so many homes, where before reigned sorrow and sadness on account of the ill-health of some dear loved one.

One patient says, "Oh, how I would like to kiss the hem of his garment." Another declares that he is the greatest physician in the world. And amid this great ovation of praise let me add my congratulations.

I am proud to have been able to assist, in my small way, in so wonderful a work.



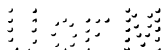
Remarks by H. D. Champlin, M. D.

Mr. Toastmaster, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Those with whom Dr. Biggar has been associated in his walks as a physician and a surgeon can testify to his uniformly courteous manners, and kindness to them.

As a consultant he has always proved to be a "friend in need," and kind words of cheer have fallen from his lips like manna to the famished. During our acquaintance of some twenty years I have always found the Doctor genial, kind and at all times ready to lend a willing ear to a brother practitioner and give freely to him of his experience and knowledge.

If, as has been described, "genius is an infinite



capacity for taking pains," then my friend Dr. Biggar ranks high as a man of genius.



Remarks by D. Gillard, M. D.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

My acquaintance with Dr. Biggar, which extends over a period of twenty-four years, I am pleased to say, has been most pleasant. Professionally his latch-string has always been out, and many a time have I listened to his words of wisdom and profited thereby. I have always found him very kind and generous to the poor and a gentleman of culture and refinement.



Remarks by Mary E. Heston, M. D.

Ladies and Gentlemen:—Nothing could possibly be said about Dr. Biggar, that would be too good, too great, or grand. Whatever he has identified with himself, has been noble and successful. His kindliness has helped many a weary, disheartened one to go forward to meet the duties of the future without fear. The sincere, heartfelt thankfulness felt by women toward honorable men who treat them nobly and justly is immeasurably intensified toward Dr. Biggar, because they know he is woman's friend.

I have seen so many critical operations performed by very eminent surgeons in the East, but none can surpass or equal him. In every trying position he is always the same genial, affable gentleman.



Remarks by Miss Hattie S. Van Hook.

Ladies and Gentleman, Mr. Toastmaster:—In Dr. Biggar the nurses have always found a trusted, loyal friend, one who in all the history of our school has lost no opportunity of promoting our highest and best interests, thereby making not only better nurses but better, broader women.

Among many things we appreciate is his ability to inspire confidence in our patients and so enabling us to do our best work for them.



Remarks by Fred. D. Page, M. D.

Ladies and Gentlemen:—Allow me to congratulate you on your past great work, Dr. Biggar. It really seems wonderful to me to know that you have passed the thousand mark of laparotomies. And yet, after seeing your skill, I wonder that all suffering humanity do not come to you.

I trust your future will be more brilliant (if possible) than your past.



Remarks by A. Gleason, M. D.

Mr. Toastmaster, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am held-up, buncoed, enticed here by the promise of something good to eat, and then told that I must talk for my supper. As this dinner is in honor of the one thousand laparotomies performed by Dr. Biggar, it might be appropriate to describe one of those laparotomies.

The one I have selected is a case that I presented to Dr. Biggar for operation, and at that time the greatest he had ever attempted. It was the first successful operation of the kind ever performed in this city, and only one had ever been successful in New York City, and that but a short time previous. The tumor was fibro-cystic, of thirteen years' growth, and implicated the uterus and appendages. The patient came into my hands in 1880; she informed me she wished palliative treatment, as the best surgeons in the East had refused to operate. After a good deal of persuasion I obtained her consent to calling Dr. Biggar in consultation. Dr. Biggar thought an operation feasible, as death would have been the result in a very short time from conditions then existing. After a few weeks of preparatory treatment in the hospital, she was placed on the table at Huron Street Hospital.

At the end of one hour and forty-five minutes the doctor had removed a forty-five pound tumor, which required an incision extending from the pubes nearly to the sternum. The operation would have been completed in twenty minutes had it not been for the necessity of applying some seventy odd ligatures to secure the bleeding points resultant to the breaking up of the adhesions. The abdomen, before being closed, resembled a barbed-wire fence. The wound was closed, dressings applied and the patient removed to her room.

She reacted promptly from the anæsthetic, made a splendid cure, and is today living in good health—a living monument to the ability and skill of Dr. Biggar.



Remarks by Lovina Thorpe, M. D.

Mr. Toastmaster, Ladies and Gentlemen:

The memory of this beautiful banquet will long be with me, but longer still the event which it commemorates. To think that one physician or surgeon should have the opportunity to exercise his surgical skill in one thousand of the most serious class of cases which come under the care of physicians and surgeons, is something but a very few can only hope to ever attain. And I can only say that we are proud of him and happy to have him in our midst, knowing that he is ever ready and willing to aid poor feminine humanity.



Remarks by Mrs. J. M. Tims.

Mr. Toastmaster, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It has been ten years since I stood a trembling probationer in the august presence of Dr. Biggar, receiving my first orders for one of his patients in surgery. Since that time I have found him to be most conscientious and considerate to both patient and nurse—one who inspires his patient with confidence and courage and his nurse to her very best work.

And when, in our training or work, we find we have gone beyond our endurance, who is it

that, in spite of many cares, finds time to send us cases that shall not, "as the day thy strength shall be," but rather "as thy strength thy work shall be."

We feel our training had not been complete without Dr. Biggar's instruction and discipline, always so kindly given.



Remarks by Clara Gillard, M. D.

Mr. Toastmaster, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It gives me great pleasure to have the opportunity to express my gratitude for the many kindnesses shown me by Dr. Biggar. Professionally and socially he has proven himself to be a man of superior worth. His opinion has always been unequaled, as time has proven his diagnoses and prognoses to be correct, and when one is in possession of the same, he may be sure there is none more valuable; the profession owes him much.



Remarks by G. Glen Frost, M. D.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is said "familiarity breeds contempt," but I have played in Dr. Biggar's back yard for over five years with increasing respect.



Remarks by Helen K. Champlin, M. D.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am glad to express my appreciation of the honor I feel to be a participant in the commem-

oration of such a vast human work as we rejoice over with him who has been such a benefactor to woman in her sufferings.

One is almost appalled to think of one thousand abdominal sections. What a witness this number is to the confidence in and appreciation of Dr. Biggar's skill as a physician and surgeon!

It seems to me, this gloomy day and evening, with its dreary, ceaseless rain-patter, from which we have come, into the brightness and cheer, is symbolic of the conditions to be found in these many homes, preceding and following the introduction of Dr. Biggar's wisdom and skill.

He may well wear the genial, happy face he does. Such expressions are born of the knowledge of the power that one can relieve, and the joy one feels in having relieved great suffering.

During my acquaintance of nineteen years with Dr. Biggar it is a pleasure to testify, on behalf of myself, to his uniform kindness and courtesy to women medical students and practitioners. In him they have had their warmest friend and advocate. I thank him, with the hope that the future may crown him with even more laurels than has the past.



Dr. Martha A. Canfield spoke pleasantly of Dr. Biggar's skill as a surgeon, loyalty to the training school and his kindness to the lady doctors.

Remarks by H. B. Van Norman, M. D.

Dr. Biggar, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am very thankful and happy because I am here to celebrate with you this great event, and to do honor to the hero of the occasion. I am also thankful that I am in the presence of "fair women and brave men." I love these two noble professions, for who have done more for humanity than physicians and nurses, and I bid them God-speed in their noble work.

I have always admired Dr. Biggar, not alone because he is a countryman of mine, but because of his pluck, courage and perseverance.

No one has done more for Homeopathy in Cleveland colleges and hospitals than he.

Long may he live to bless and help humanity.



Remarks by Emily Barnes-Robinson, M. D.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

My associations with Dr. Biggar began in the class-room about twelve years ago, and his teaching and influence in this field were a source of inspiration to me of great value. In practice, I have always found him kind and courteous and strictly professional. I heartily congratulate him on this occasion.



Remarks by Lester E. Simon, M. D.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

While looking around on the goodly and joyous banqueters I could not keep my mind from

roaming back to the busy quiet surgery in the hospital where, with cool, intrepid skill and infinite patience, Dr. Biggar worked out those splendid results which have rebounded to the credit of the profession in general, and which have done so much to place the Homeopathic school in its present prominence. And then my fancy would skip across the old iron bridge into the amphitheatre of an ancient and beloved alma mater buzzing and humming with its student population, where with manner pleasing and dignity peculiarly his own, he taught us the greatness of our calling and showed us how each of us might do his share to temper the pains and lighten the burdens of womankind. And for me personally, be it said that though he made me work, yet it was good work and I learned much. May he live long and still continue to do good.



Remarks by F. O. Reeves, M. D.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I desire to give expression to the honor conferred upon me in being a guest at this banquet.

The recollections of my associations with Dr. Biggar throughout my college and professional life are the pleasantest, for I have found him in every instance a friend, kind and true, ready to give much-needed advice from his fund of knowledge and experience.

Remarks by Miss Emma Norton.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is now eight years since I entered upon a course of training in the Hospital and had my first introduction to Dr. Biggar, and I have always looked upon him as one who possessed some of the very best qualities of any man whom I have ever known. In him the nurses have always found a warm friend and one who has always had our interests at heart.

I recall to mind a little instance which happened during my time at the school. During the holidays a little entertainment in the way of a surprise was to be given to the nurses. Dr. Biggar knew nothing of this. I was invited by the Principal of the school to go shopping. We entered a shop and while looking around to see how we could economize with our means and still get something nice, Dr. Biggar came in. After greeting us in his pleasant manner, he inquired what we were doing. The Principal explained to him, and I shall never forget his answer and I am sure it was from his heart, when he said, "Get anything you want and send the bill to me." We certainly had a grand surprise that year for everyone knows Dr. Biggar never does anything half way.

Remarks by Jacob Schneider, M. D.

CHICKENS COME HOME TO ROOST.

You may take the world as it comes and goes,
And you will be sure to find
That fate will square the account she owes
Whatsoever come out behind.
All things bad that a doctor has done,
By whatsoever induced
Will return to him at last, one by one,
As the chickens come home to roost.

You may scrape and toil and save
While your hoarded wealth expands
Till the dark, cold shadow of the grave
Is nearing your life's last sands;
You will have your balance struck some night
And you'll find your hoard reduced,
You will view your life in another light,
When your chickens come home to roost.

You may pinch your soul and starve your heart
With the husks of a narrow creed,
But Biggar will know if you play your part,
Will know you in your hour of need,
And when you wait for death to come,
What hope can be deduced from a creed above?
You will lie there dumb—
When your chickens come home to roost.

Sow as you will—there's a time to reap,
For the good and the bad as well,
And conscience, whether you're wake or sleep,
Is either a heaven or hell;
And every wrong will find its place,
And every passion loosed,
Comes back to meet you, face to face,
When the chickens come home to roost.

Whether you're over or under the sod,
The result will be the same;
You cannot escape the hand of God,
You must bear your own sin and shame;
No matter what is carved on the marble slab,
When the items are all produced,
You will find H. F. Biggar's been keeping tab,
And that your chickens come to roost.



Remarks by M. M. Catlin, M. D.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is not to inflict many remarks upon you, as I am not gifted with the graces of a Dr. Biggar, or his diction—it has not been my good fortune to acquire them—but I cannot forbear presenting myself long enough to thank Dr. Biggar for what he has done for our school and the colleges of Ohio.



Remarks by Cliffe Updegraff Johnson, M. D.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I take pleasure in adding a word to all that has been said in praise of Dr. Biggar. It has been my privilege to be his student, and, if I may say, protégé. His words and example have been the means of arousing enthusiasm in me as in many another poor despairing medical student.

Dr. Canfield has spoken of it, and I also would testify that his courtesy and consideration toward women in the profession have been marked and unflinching. May he live long and give many banquets.

Remarks by Wm. O. Osborn, M. D.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I can hardly speak of myself as a protégé of Dr. Biggar, never having been a private assistant to him in his surgical work, but I did considerable work for him while I was on the house staff at Huron Street Hospital and I always enjoyed working for him. I felt that I always received courteous and generous treatment. One thing that I recall about him was his exasperating punctuality. If he set an operation for eight A. M. he usually came in about a quarter before eight and wanted to begin promptly at eight. Many a time we have had to hurry away from the breakfast table leaving the steak and the rolls. But I feel it was a valuable lesson for me to learn, and I think this habit of punctuality has been one of the large elements in giving Dr. Biggar the success he has earned. I recommend the habit together with that of early rising to some of my friends present this evening. I have said we always enjoyed working with the doctor. He had a great variety of cases. He was generous to his nurses and assistants in explaining the cases to them and letting them do such things as they could do for the patients. I admire his skill and ready resource, and I thank him for the good time this evening, for the opportunity of seeing the "old nurses" again.

My one regret for the evening is that the doctor

does not give the date of his first laparotomy, perhaps fearing thereby to disclose his age. He should remember those lines of Holmes—

“Call him not old whose visionary brain
Holds o'er the past its undivided reign,
For him in vain the envious seasons roll
Who holds eternal sunshine in his soul.”



Remarks by S. E. Deeley, M. D.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is about five years since I first had the pleasure of meeting our genial and distinguished host. At the sametime arrangements were made whereby I entered his office as an assistant. The years passed pleasantly and however much I value the practical experience gained from daily observation and association with one so eminent in his profession as Dr. Biggar, no less do I appreciate and cherish in memory the many evidences of sincere and friendly interest bestowed upon me. Dr. Biggar is always the friend of the Medical Student.

Well do I remember the first laparotomy case at which I assisted the doctor, and remember the delight, the admiration with which I watched every movement of that skillful hand. I have since had the pleasure of being present at the one thousandth case of the series, in honor of which we are gathered here to enjoy the hospitality of our friend and to celebrate the skill of a great surgeon.

Remarks by William E. Wells, M. D.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

You have all spoken very pleasantly of the doctor in reference to his ability as a surgeon and physician all of which I heartily endorse.



Remarks by Katherine Kurt, M. D.

Professor Biggar and Friends:

"The last cut is the most unkind cut of all," for it is embarrassing to expect one to graciously respond without previously being warned that such an act is expected. Friends, this is an unique occasion and I feel myself honored to be a participant.

Few here will be permitted to witness another occasion like it. It is an historic event, to be recorded in the annals of surgery.

One thousand laparotomies! All upon living subjects and the operator still styles himself a boy. By his physical appearance and the activity of his mind he shows capacity to do another equally large. Laity and profession alike respect and honor the dauntless surgeon, and I wish to add my admiration for him who is our host.

It is often said "Every question has two sides," or, from another angle the picture shows another view. So, also, here, when one looks upon the other side the exclamation is forced. Alas, woman, how often have you been a victim of the

surgeon's knife! Knowing no other source of relief you have been forced to trust him.

Prof. Biggar has not told us that the larger portion of those thousand cases was women, but we know it is so without his statement.

I am one of those who hopes the dawn of that day is not far distant when a gentler method shall prevail to cure both men and women of those ills now subjected to the use of the knife, a method that shall search for the source of disease and work as a silent force to restore health without the shedding of blood or the infliction of a scar.



Remarks by Elizabeth Murray, M. D.

Dear Dr. Biggar:

It gave me great pleasure to have been with you last Saturday evening, and although remarks were in order, the opportunity was brief and a desire to hear others kept me silent at the time, I take this means to express my respect and appreciation of the fact that in nine years of experience I never knew your keen eye, your ready hand and open purse to fail in the hour of need. I wish also to assure you of my loyalty and my regret that there are those who refuse to "tender unto Cæsar the things that are Cæsar's."

Hoping you will be spared for many years to your useful and beautiful career.

Remarks by H. F. Biggar, M. D.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Tonight I am overjoyed by the presence of so many of my former assistants and nurses, who have been so intimately associated with me in my surgical work, and who have shown their skill in helping to accomplish the first series of one thousand laparotomies, the successful accomplishment of which is largely due to their work and patient watchfulness. Even when the efforts to restore health were unavailing, your earnest and intense interest has never flagged or faltered. Your confidence and hope, which are but the fruits of your previous successes, assured me that if I performed my duty you would be faithful to yours. You have always been loving and tender in your ministrations, for your earnest, honest efforts and unbounded enthusiasm were but the responses to your heart's desire. At all times I have been greatly encouraged by your cheerful co-operation to succor and relieve. Such encouragement, fidelity and hopefulness have decided the fate of many whose lives were on the very verge of death. By your noble work many wives have been restored to their husbands, many mothers to their loving children, and many daughters to their parents, and it is you whom these husbands, mothers and children have just cause to call blessed. I am to be congratulated

that I have been so favored with having such competent and loyal assistants. It is, then, not surprising that tonight is one of the happiest of my medical life, for am I not surrounded by a large number of those who have been equally interested with me in this great work? Many of you have become distinguished in this, the noblest, the grandest and most useful of all professions or vocations, to the poor as well as to the rich. Such gatherings bring back many sweet memories of triumphs and victories, and make us ever strong to battle with disease. May distress and pain and suffering be relieved and many lives be restored! May God bless us all in this great work, and may all thanks be given to Him who has guided and directed us in the discharge of our duties and the sacred fulfillment of our missions.

LETTERS FROM THE ABSENT.



Letter from Rt. Rev. William A. Leonard, D. D.
Bishop of Ohio.

Mr Dear Dr. Biggar:

It is most gracious and kind in you to Mrs. Leonard and me in asking us to be present at the banquet given to your fellow-laborers in the work of cure and health. I wish that it were possible for me to be with you, but my manifold duties out of town will absolutely prevent. Mrs. Leonard joins me in these regrets. But do permit me, my dear friend and physician, to tell you how I appreciate your tender and helpful efforts in endeavoring to ameliorate suffering, and in the ministration of your skill to those who ask for your aid. I have had a large and long experience with medical men, and I know of no profession which is blessed with so many heroic, self-sacrificing and benevolent sons and daughters. The "large band of sisters," the growing army of trained nurses, must be included in the ranks of your learned fellows and associates since modern medical science is dependent for its accomplishment upon these faithful and patient workers at the sick bed. God bless your profession, is my instinctive utterance. He did bless it when He sent us the "Good Phy-

sician," eighteen hundred years ago. And those of us who admire and love you will, I am sure, join me in wishing for the continuance to you of the Divine favor which hath hitherto crowned your endeavors with success and with a liberal reward of affectionate, devoted patients and beneficiaries. I am, your attached friend,

W. A. LEONARD.



Letter from Eva Corell Dittman, M. D., Ph. D.

Having had the good fortune to assist in several laparotomies, having realized something of the labor, care, anxiety and hopes that each individual case involves, a series of one thousand seems overwhelming, and I am reminded, "Only a master's hand can accomplish a master's work and have a master's success." But every general needs his subordinates upon whom obedience in carrying out all the details of his orders brings victory or defeat. Great is he who recognizes the inferior forces which unite and make his success. We were the happy assistants of such a master.

Upon receiving your kind invitation these words of Shakespeare came to my mind:

"This night I hold an old accustom'd feast,
Whereto I have invited many a guest,
Such as I love; and you among the store
One more, most welcome."

**Letter from Rev. Edward M. Worthington, A. M.,
Rector Grace Episcopal Church.**

Dear Dr. Biggar:

Though under regretful necessity to decline your invitation, I have the privilege of expressing my appreciation of your great value and usefulness in the profession which you have so signally adorned.

The late Archbishop of Canterbury, in his sermon before the British Medical Society two years ago in St. Pauls, London, gave utterance to these beautiful words which seem to me well exemplified in your career of service as surgeon and physician:

"It is no wonder that the physician is everywhere the tried, trusted, tender friend of the family. He comes with his power of calmness, comes with his power to allay, comes with the hope of recovery, not as one has the gift to give with a liberal but indifferent hand, but as one who has compassion, who can sympathize without weakening. And there is yet another of the finest characteristics of noble minds which I would fain name, than which none is more coveted for their professions by its greatest professors—it is Reverence. Reverence not merely for their study and its achievements, but for the subject itself of their study. The thoughtful judgment of this wise world reverences none so much as those in whose minds they see that familiarity breeds reverence. Sympathy, Reverence! These are the

true attributes of the watches, whose ear is open to the voice of many waters, the sorrow laden yet triumphant rush of the River of the Water of Life pouring on through the valley of tears and death to Resurrection and Eternity."

With regard and esteem, faithfully yours.



Letter from Prof. A. R. Bain, LL. D.,
Victoria University, Toronto.

Dear Doctor:

I thank you most heartily for your invitation to the dinner you gave May 1st. I almost hoped at the time I might be able to be there, and therefore did not reply at once.

It turned out to be impossible. Examinations and meetings of Senate, etc., which are pressing at this season, stopped me, and I was cut out. I see you say "first" series of a thousand laparotomies. I suppose you would rejoice to think you will be privileged, before you are ordered to halt forever, to try your skill on a thousand more.

Well, my dear fellow, I certainly wish you will live long enough to get your wish.



I want to thank you, too, for sending me an account or statement of the generous offer you are making about your medical school. You must be intensely interested in its success. Our board and faculty would rejoice to find around Toronto a few who would show similar interest in old Vic.

Letter from E. C. Buell, M. D., Los Angeles, Cal.

My Dear Doctor:

I am just returned from a month's enforced absence from the city and from work. I find your invitation to a "complimentary banquet," given at The Hollenden, May the first.

I can think of nothing professional that would have afforded me greater pleasure than to have been present. I believe I was with you in almost your earliest laparotomy, performed for the late Dr. Hoxie, of Buffalo. And permit me to sincerely congratulate you on your "tenth century mark"—a mark that has been reached by few operators. What your mortality rate is I do not know, but am confident, without knowing, that it is among the lowest of the low. There were a few surgeons before the days of Asepsis who practically practiced aseptic surgery, because of the scrupulous, even fastidious, neatness and cleanliness of the man. Such a man was Samuel D. Gross. Such a man was my old preceptor, and to such training do I largely owe what success I have made in the last few years in abdominal and pelvic surgery.

Again I congratulate you and bid you God-speed.



Letter from J. W. Frizzell, M. D., Great Falls, Mont.

H. F. Biggar, LL. D., M. D., Cleveland, O.:

My Dear Professor—Although I was unable to be present in person at the banquet given May

1st, my best wishes were with you, and I am intensely happy to learn that the colleges have united, and consider it the greatest blessing that could have happened for the advancement of medicine and surgery in Cleveland. Nothing less could have focused the forces scattered by the division of our Alma Mater.

All honor to Prof. Biggar, by whose generalship and zeal this coveted union has been consummated.



Letter from D. Dyce Brown, A. M., M. D.,
Portman Square, London, Eng.

Dear Doctor Biggar:

It was so kind of you to remember me by sending the kind invitation to your banquet. I should have enjoyed much this pleasure and "assisting" at the banquet, as our French friends say, had I been within reach. But I can at least thank you for your kind thought and congratulate you on such an auspicious occasion as the completion of one thousand laparotomies.

With kind regards to Mrs. Biggar and yourself, believe me.



Letter from M. O. Terry, M. D., Surgeon General,
Utica, N. Y.

My Dear Doctor Biggar:

The record of so great a work as you have performed is well worthy of the halt you have given the subject in the form of a complimentary banquet, which you are to give at The Hollenden. If

those who are recipients of your masterly skill should happen to think enough of it to give you an Offering of Praise banquet, I fear your magnificent hotel would not be large enough to receive the grateful people who have been at the "Pool of Salomee" to be cured with a knife by your dextrous hand.

I would like to take you by the hand on the occasion of the banquet and express to you my sincere admiration. Your life work will stand out as a monument of industry and as a history of the growth of surgery. The city of Cleveland may be proud of her distinguished son, who has made himself famous throughout the country.

Wishing you all a merry good time, believe me as ever,

Yours very fraternally.



Letter from S. R. Beckwith, M. D., New York.

Prof. H. F. Biggar, LL. D., M. D., Cleveland, O.:

My Dear Doctor—I received your invitation to attend a banquet to-morrow night, given by you to those who have assisted you in your numerous operations of laparotomy. I regret my inability to be with you to enjoy with others the delightful meeting. A banquet for this purpose I should enjoy more than any other, on account of our relations, and from the recollection of my first experience in ovariectomy.

Surgeons now made familiar with the various operations upon the abdomen will hardly comprehend the difficulty in performing ovariectomy at a

time when little or nothing had been written upon the subject.

My first case was an unknown tumor in the abdomen. Acting upon the advice of Sir Astley Cooper, I made an incision over the longest line of the tumor, which happened to be the *linæ semi-lunares*. After removal of the growth I found considerable loose tissue, in which there were pulsations, showing the existence of an artery. This was ligated and returned into the cavity of the abdomen. Administered aconite 30th and arnica 30th. I have never since witnessed so rapid a recovery, nor have never performed an operation with more ease. The word pedicle was not known; we acted upon general principles.

I am grateful to surgeons, and especially to you, for the improvement you have made in this and other abdominal operations.

Extend to your guests my kindest regards, taking to yourself my high esteem for the distinguished position you occupy as an eminent surgeon; I also extend a sincere desire that all will enjoy the pleasures of the banquet and its association.



Letter from Myron H. Parmelee, M. D.,
Prof. Gynecology, Hom. Dept., U. of M.
H. F. Biggar, M. D., Cleveland, Ohio:

My Dear Doctor—Your kind invitation to the banquet, celebrating the completion by yourself of a series of one thousand abdominal sections,

has been received. Unfortunately for myself, I shall be engaged elsewhere on May 1st, and will be unable to attend; but in spirit I can be with you. One thousand! How that looms up, doesn't it? Having just lately passed my first hundred of similar operations, I can appreciate the magnitude of your work, and wish you only greater and greater success.

What glittering star were you born under, pray tell, that fortune has flooded you to such a height?

Surely, the wish that a fold of your mantle might cover some of us poor, struggling fry, who reach after it, is not envy.

May the sun of your successful career never be dimmed.

Written from the heart.



Letter from Chas. E. Walton, M. D.,

Prof. Surgery, Pulte College.

H. F. Biggar, M. D.:

My Dear Doctor—The hieroglyphics on the inclosed card may be interpreted, "very sorry can't come."

Allow me to congratulate you on the completion of your first thousand laparotomies.

If it has taken you fifty years to complete your first thousand, how old do you expect to be when the second thousand is finished?

May I be there to see!



Letter from S. E. Simmons, M. D., Norwalk, O.

Dr. H. F. Biggar, Cleveland, O.:

Dear Dr. Biggar—I regret exceedingly my inability to be present with you this evening, of

which I had expected to have the pleasure until almost the last moment.

I herewith extend to you my congratulations for your one thousandth anniversary, which, no doubt, is the first one thousand laparotomies accomplished by any physician, and is indeed an honor justly and judiciously won. I deem it an honor to myself to be favored by your kind remembrance of the occasion, and I always shall remember the many favors received in the past from your great kindness, and hope the future may be brightened by your fraternal friendship, which has been the occasion of many pleasant and profitable hours to me.

Again thanking you for your cordial invitation,
I remain, Sincerely,



Letter from W. B. Van Lennep, A. M., M. D.,
Prof. Surgery, Hahnemann Medical College, Philadelphia.
Dr. H. F. Biggar :

My Dear Doctor:—I want to thank you most heartily for your very kind invitation to the banquet which commemorates your first thousand laparotomies. While I cannot avail myself of it and have the pleasure of sitting down with you and your assistants, I want to offer you my most sincere congratulations on the amount of work that you have done, and hope that when you commemorate your second thousand I may have the good fortune to be with you. Believe me,

Yours very truly,

Letter from W. P. Bennett,
Surgeon of the Penna. R. R.
Crestline, Ohio.

My Dear Doctor Biggar:

I deeply regret that my patients prevent me from attending the banquet celebrating the completion of your first series of one thousand laparotomies.

After twenty years of active life in our chosen profession and attaining a degree of success in the eyes of the world, my mind goes back to my student life and the early part of my practice with you. It is with great pleasure that I can now, after so many years of uninterrupted friendship, ascribe all credit and honor to you and your careful and conscientious teachings. The daily influence of your life has constantly urged young men to a higher plane, both educationally and morally. This was always prominent in your college relations, as well as with your own students and assistants.

Hoping you may always enjoy the honor and respect of the men you spent so much of your life for, and that we may yet for many years enjoy your counsel and advice,

I am, respectfully,



Letter from E. D. Warner, M. D.,
Geneva, O., Oct. 11, 1897.

Dr. H. F. Biggar, Cleveland, O.

Dear Doctor and Former Preceptor:—Owing to most extenuating circumstances I was unable to attend the notable banquet which celebrated

the completion of the 1,000 laparotomies in your brilliant professional career. I deeply regret that I was obliged to forego the pleasure and honor of congratulating you in person upon that delightful occasion.

Your great kindness to me as my Æsculapian preceptor I shall ever gratefully cherish in memory. During my intimate relations with you as a student in your office, while so long constantly in touch with your devoted life, I learned of your grand qualities and great skill; and not only did I learn of your wonderful skill as a surgeon and physician, but of your manly traits of character so beautifully illustrated in your kindness to the poor.

I am sad that the years have silvered your hair, yet the proud, noble character remains—the brave heart, the unfailing mind are untrammelled by time.

May the years yet to come be filled with the same wonderful success that has marked the past, and may they also contain a full measure of happiness, is the prayer

Of your student in days gone by,
Who fathomed your noble worth;
Who is proud to renew the tie
Of a "1,000" links in earth.

Though I failed to keep the tryst
At the banquet, Dr. B.,
Count me one in the "1000" list,
As a friend of firm degree.

You've poured in life's golden bowl
Elixirs that sweeten time;
You have lessened pain's control—
Are a king, still in your prime.

Pray accept this greeting true,
With a thousand wishes kind;
And my thanks, forever due,
To you, through these words entwined.



Letter from Cora D. Fenton, M. D.

DEAR DR. BIGGAR :

"A wise physician, skilled our wounds to heal,
Is more than armies to the public weal."

It is a pleasing task to add a tributary to the great river of praise and gratitude that has long been flowing and gathering volume from many sources, rising in the thankful hearts of those whose lives have been saved, and whose health restored, and in the many homes whose light has not been permitted to go out. And in this grand culmination of well tested skill, and well fought battles against disease, resulting in one thousand laparotomies, with the great balance on the side of recoveries, we who have taken even the humblest part can but feel a just pride.

The gratitude exists, not only in the hearts of those whom this skill has saved; it is almost equally great on the part of the doctor, who, when his own resources were exhausted, and his heart sick, placed his patient in those competent hands—felt his burden lighten, and saw his case once more restored to the borderland of health. It has been my good fortune to place a small

number of that grand sum total, in Dr. Biggars' hands, two of which seemed desperate cases, and the operation a last resort. All recovered, and today feel a personal pride in the surgical achievements of our chief..

We may well consider, what is the main-spring of this great success, and though many things may blend in securing it, yet the base wall must be never ceasing devotion to the object to be attained, with indomitable will and perseverance. For

"Though a man have a strength of a Hercules,
And an arm like a weaver's beam,
Yet no hammer will swing,
And no anvil will ring,
No fire in the forge will gleam
If he drop his hand
At sloth's command
And idly sit and dream."

Should a mind have a scope that is infinite,
And be keen as a tempered blade,
Yet its quota to truth
Will be meagre forsooth,—
No conquest will ever be made
If against the hosts
That ignorance boasts,
Its forces be not arrayed.

We know such victories are not easily gained. We reverence the qualities that combine to win them, and feel no small joy in such consummation.

Long life and many blessings upon him who has bestowed these boons upon a multitude, are the slightest words we can give.

Parkersburg, W. Va., May 5th, 1897.

H. F. Biggar, M. D.,

Dear Doctor:—I regret very much that I could not be present at your banquet on Saturday last, but business prevented me from leaving Wheeling.

The reports that reach me regarding amalgamation of the colleges are so vague that I know nothing regarding it. Was it consummated upon the basis proposed by you, or did they modify it? At all events you have done a great service for homeopathy in bringing them together on any basis. Any information you can give me regarding it will be appreciated not only by the writer, but also by many of the physicians in this locality.

It would give me pleasure to receive a menu card of the banquet.

Hoping for a reply, believe me,

Yours with regard,

EDWARD GROVE.

Address as above.



Philadelphia, Sunday, April 25, 1897.

My Dear Dr. Biggar:

1,000 laparotomies—well! You are a worker! Accept my congratulations. I regret not being able to look in at you and your well trained corps at "The Hollenden," on May 1st, 1897. Wishing continued success, and with regards,

I am truly yours,

WM. W. VAN BAUN.

Chicago, April 29, 1897.

H. F. Biggar, M. D., Cleveland, O.

My Dear Doctor:—I am very sorry I cannot be present on Saturday. I know of no way I had rather spend an evening than to meet all hands and chat and joke over old times. But as I am busy here till Sunday, I can only extend my best wishes to you, and also to those who have been through the mill with you. And to those who may be grinding with you at the present, or do in the future, I hope that they may subsequently reap as much benefit from their training as I have. And hoping you continued success in your next thousand laparotomies,

Believe me, sincerely yours,

C. H. CUSHING.



Buffalo, N. Y., April 22, 1897.

Dear Doctor Biggar:

Your kind invitation for May 1st is received, and I wish to express my appreciation of the compliment of being included in your circle.

I shall be away on a trip south at that time, so must regret instead of sending an acceptance.

I congratulate you most heartily on having reached your thousandth laparotomy.

Very sincerely yours,

JOSEPH T. COOK.

Rochester, N. Y., April 22, 1897.

My Dear Professor Biggar:

I am in receipt of your kind invitation to attend a banquet given to the doctors and nurses who have assisted you in your first series of one thousand laparotomies. If I had not made an appointment to be in Richmond, Va., at that time, I certainly would be with you.

I do not think I can find language with which to express my appreciation of your worth as a cultured gentleman, scientific leader and brilliant pioneer in the difficult field of abdominal surgery. Your success has been marvelous, and it is with the greatest pride and satisfaction that I number you among my friends.

I am, with high esteem,

J. M. LEE.



New Brighton, S. I., April 23, 1897.

Dear Doctor Biggar:

I fully appreciate your kindness in remembering me among your many friends and admirers; and I should be much pleased to attend the reception on May 1st and add my little word of congratulation to the many that I am sure you deserve and will certainly receive, were I not a very busy woman and separated by too great a distance.

Although I am now superintendent of a hospi-

tal belonging to the "regular school," yet I am just as true to my colors as a homeopath as ever.

Hoping to receive an invitation to your anniversary after your 1,500th case, and that I may be able to attend, and with congratulations and best wishes for continued success,

I am, very sincerely yours,

ALICE I. TWITCHELL.



Queen's Park, Toronto, April 29, 1897.

My Dear Biggar:

Permit me to send an informal word in reply to your formal invitation to the banquet on the first of May. It is kind of you to send the word, and I would very much like to see you and give my congratulations on the occasion. But I can not hope that circumstances will permit me to go.

May I add timidly that I stand a little in doubt of the bill of fare? You seem to have been doing a *slashing* business, and I think it must be in some way a consequence of the *cuisine* of the American cooks, if the true inwardness of the business should come to light.

However that may be, I hope you and your assistants may have a good time on the first of May, and not make too much business for yourselves in your own peculiar line.

Cordially yours,

A. H. RAYNER.

Prof. of Belles-lettres, Victoria University.

Cleveland, 1897.

H. F. Biggar.

Dear Doctor:—Invitation to attend your banquet Saturday evening, May 1st, received, for which receive my sincere thanks.

As I sever my connection with the hospital the middle of the week, it will be impossible for me to attend.

Accept my congratulations for having performed your one thousandth laparotomy—a high-water mark which few surgeons ever attain. May you ever be so successful.

I myself feel proud to know that I was the chloroformist of the case that completed the final score.

Kindly accept my regrets and remember me
as Yours always,

BURKE L. JOHNSON.

Resident Physician Huron St. Hospital, 1897.

• • •

Kansas City, Mo., April 29, 1897.

Prof. H. F. Biggar, Cleveland, O.

My Dear Doctor:—Your kind invitation to your banquet duly received. Please accept thanks for the same. It will be impossible for me to accept, but I wish to congratulate you upon your success, which I know is fully deserved. I hope you may be spared many years, and continue to be as prosperous as in the past.

Again I sincerely congratulate you.

I am, yours sincerely,

C. C. OLMSTED.

Ann Arbor, Mich., April 24, 1897.

Dr. H. F. Biggar, Cleveland, O.

Dear Doctor:—Your kind invitation received. I wish that I might be present at the "complimentary banquet" given in honor of those who have assisted you in your great work, but it is impossible, so please accept my regrets. I can never forget the work accomplished during the years of 1886-87, nor do I wish to, for it gives me great pleasure to remember all the good done.

Wishing you very many more years of usefulness, I am,

Yours respectfully,

MARY A. HUTCHINSON.



Morrisburg, Ont., April 24, 1897.

My Dear Biggar:

I received your kind and cordial invitation to a complimentary dinner, to be given by you to your assistants at your laparotomy operations, and am very sorry I cannot even think of going and accepting your hospitality. But trust it will be successful, and it must be when you are the director. At the dinner just take a sip for "Auld Lang Syne."

Hoping you may have a real enjoyable time, and with kindest wishes and love to your family, believe me, as ever,

C. E. HICKEY.

New York City, April 25th, 1897.

Dear Dr. Biggar:

Your invitation received, and I regret very much that I cannot attend, for it would give me great pleasure to personally congratulate you on your wonderful success, and to meet you all on this occasion.

I feel very proud to be classed in the list of nurses who have assisted you, and I hope success may ever attend you.

Yours very truly,

ELLA G. VANCE.

• • •

69 East Ave., S., Hamilton, April 26, 1897.

Dear Doctor Biggar:

You are never finishing doing nice things. It would give me a great deal of pleasure to be with you at the banquet, but it will be impossible.

It gives me pleasure always to hear of what you are doing and to know you are well.

Believe me, ever thine,

E. H. ROBINSON.

• • •

Kansas City, Mo., April 22, 1897.

Dear Doctor:

I have yours inviting me to the complimentary banquet May 1st, and beg to convey to you my sincere regrets that it will be impossible for me to be present on that auspicious occasion. Though unable to be with you personally, I am in warm sympathy with the objects of the occasion and beg to congratulate you upon your glorious achievements. They redound to the honor of our cause.

Yours truly,

WM. DAVIS FOSTER.

